

ABSTRACT

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5 A distributed processing, interactive computer network and method
of operation is described. The network is designed to provide very
large numbers of simultaneous users access to large numbers of
applications which feature interactive text/graphic sessions. The
network includes one or more host computers having application data
stores; a plurality of concentrator computers, also including
application data stores, the concentrator computers being connected
10 in groups of one or more to each of the host computers; and a
plurality of reception system computers connected in groups of one or
more to each of the concentrator computers, the reception system
computers being arranged so that respective users can request
interactive applications at the reception system computers. In
accordance with the design, the reception system computers also
15 include application data stores. The method for operating the network
includes steps for generating the interactive text/graphic sessions
from objects that include data and/or program instructions.
Additionally, the method features steps for distributing objects among
the data stores of the network computers, and, thereafter, permitting
20 the reception system computer at which an application is requested to
selectively collect objects required for the application from the
network and the respective reception system so that the requested
application may be presented at the reception system based on the
objects collected. This operation decreases processing demand on the
25 higher-level network elements, permitting them to function primarily
as data supply and maintenance resources, thereby reducing network
complexity, cost and response time.

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